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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

2004 MAR 17 PM 4:37

Applicant: Joseph Peter Kerzman et al.

Serial No.: 09/597,529

Examiner: Rossoshek, Yelena

Filed: June 20, 2000

Class Unit: 2825

For: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SELECTING AND ALIGNING CELLS
USING A PLACEMENT TOOL**

Docket No.: RA 5273 (1028.1128101)

REQUEST FOR REFUND UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.26(b)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

PO Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 9th day of March, 2004.

By: _____

Brian N. Tufte

Applicants have reviewed the charge in the amount of \$258.00 for this application which appears on the Deposit Account Statement dated January 2004 (copy attached). It appears that these charges were for 3 independent claims in excess of the 3 allowed independent claims resulting in a charge of \$258.00. The applicants filed an Amendment in response to an Office Action dated October 17, 2003, at which time 3 additional independent claims were added. The applicants included a check in the amount of \$276.00, which included, among other costs, the cost of the 3 additional independent claims or an additional \$258.00. Enclosed are copies of the return postcard stamped by the Patent Office, Transmittal, Amendment as filed, and copy of the front and back of the check enclosed at the time the amendment was filed. The back side of the check shows that the check was cashed by the Patent Office; therefore, applicants hereby request that deposit account 50-0413 be credited in the amount of \$258.00.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joseph Peter Kerzman et al.

By their attorney,

Dated: March 9, 2004

Brian N. Tufte, Reg. No. 38,638
CROMPTON, SEAGER & TUFTE, LLC
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Minneapolis, MN 55403-2402
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PATENT
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Joseph Peter Kerzman et al.

Serial No.: 09/597,529

Examiner: Rossoshek, Helen

Filed: June 20, 2000

Group Art Unit: 2825

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SELECTING AND ALIGNING
CELLS USING A PLACEMENT TOOL

Docket No.: RA 5273 (1028.1128101)

AMENDMENT-AFTER-FINAL

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By: _____

Brian N. Tully

Dear Sir or Madame,

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Official Action of the Examiner mailed October 17, 2003, setting a three-month shortened statutory period for response ending January 17, 2004.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 13 of this paper.

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02 FC:1201 258.00 OP

Adjustment date: 04/02/2004 SDIRETA1
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Deposit Account Statement

Requested Statement Month: January 2004
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 Name: CROMPTON SEAGER & TUFTE LLC
 Attention: DAVID M CROMPTON
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 City: MINNEAPOLIS
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|-------|------|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 01/05 | 1 | 10174851 | 1100.117401 | 1806 | BNT \$180.00 | \$3.25 |
| 01/07 | 82 | 10749637 | H0005547-0760(1100.122910) | 1201 | BNT \$86.00 | \$3.16 |
| 01/08 | 192 | 10750586 | 1001.171401 | 9204 | Dmc \$258.00 | \$3.42 |
| 01/09 | 16 | E-REPLENISHMENT | | 9203 | \$2,500.00 | \$5.92 |
| 01/09 | 37 | 2170695 | 1014.4001101 | 7205 | 300.00 (\$100.00) | \$5.82 |
| 01/09 | 38 | 2170695 | 1014.4001101 | 7208 | (\$200.00) | \$5.62 |
| 01/09 | 296 | 2194072 | 1014.4002101 | 7205 | 300.00 (\$100.00) | \$5.52 |
| 01/09 | 297 | 2194072 | 1014.4002101 | 7208 | (\$200.00) | \$5.32 |
| 01/09 | 375 | 76301898 | 1015.4017101 | 7004 | \$150.00 | \$5.17 |
| 01/12 | 1 | 09597529 | 1015.4015101 | 1201 | BNT \$258.00 | \$4.91 |
| 01/13 | 745 | 76239834 | 1015.4015101 | 7004 | \$150.00 | \$4.76 |
| 01/14 | 1371 | 1834511 | 1014.4003101 | 7205 | 500.00 (\$100.00) | \$4.66 |
| 01/14 | 1372 | 1834511 | 1014.4003101 | 7201 | (\$400.00) | \$4.26 |
| 01/21 | 52 | 10757674 | H26483USC1(1100.1184102) | 1202 | BNT \$18.00 | \$4.08 |
| 01/28 | 20 | 6108961 | 1037.1101101 | 2551 | \$455.00 | \$3.79 |
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| | | \$3,432.00 | \$2,397.00 | \$2,758.00 | | \$3,793.00 |

Submission of IDS from ISR wrong
Correct 1-Ind. claim
no was sent for claim
Correct 1 claim

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Receipt is hereby acknowledged for the following in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office:

Applicant: Joseph Peter Kerzman et al

Serial No.: 09/597,529

Filed: June 20, 2000

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SELECTING AND ALIGNING CELLS
USING A PLACEMENT TOOL

Docket No.: RA 5273 (1028.1128101)

Date of Deposit: December 15, 2003

Transmittal

Amendment in response to office action of October 17, 2003

Check in the amount of \$276 (claims)

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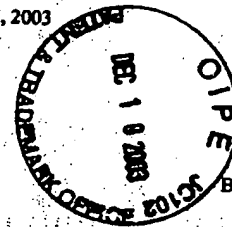
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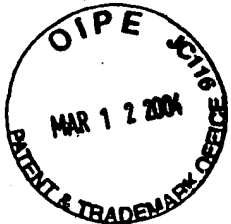
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Applicant: Joseph Peter Kerzman et al.

Serial No.: 09/597,529

Examiner: Rossoshek, Yelena

Filed: June 20, 2000

Group Art Unit: 2825

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SELECTING AND ALIGNING CELLS
USING A PLACEMENT TOOL

Docket No.: RA 5273 (1028.1128101)

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By: 
Brian N. Tufte

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

[X] Amendment in response to final office action dated October 17, 2003
[X] The fee has been calculated as shown:

| CLAIMS AS AMENDED | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|-------|--------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| | (3) | (4) | (5) | SMALL ENTITY | | OTHER | |
| | REMAINING CLAIMS | HIGHEST PAID | EXTRA | RATE | ADD'L FEE | RATE | ADD'L FEE |
| TOTAL CLAIMS | 35- | 34- | 1 | x9= | \$ | x18= | \$ 18 |
| INDEPENDENT CLAIMS | 6- | 3- | 3 | x43= | \$ | x86= | \$ 258 |
| () FIRST MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM | | | | +145= | \$ | +290= | \$ |
| TOTAL | | | | \$ | | \$276.00 | |



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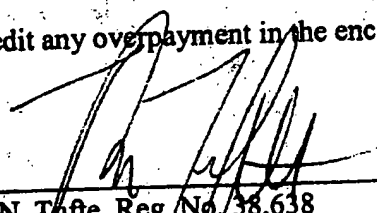
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[X]

Please charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment in the enclosed fees to
Deposit Account No. 50-0413.



Brian N. Tufte, Reg. No. 38,638
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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A computerized method for selecting cells in a
2 circuit design database, the circuit design database having one or more levels of hierarchy
3 including one or more logic functions composed of one or more other logic functions
4 and/or one or more leaf cells, the leaf cells forming the lowest level of hierarchy in the
5 circuit design database, each of the leaf cells having one or more inputs and one or more
6 outputs, the circuit design database having one or more nets, each of the nets for
7 connecting an output port of a source leaf cell to an input port of one or more destination
8 leaf cells, the computerized method comprising the steps of:
9 selecting one of the nets via a user input device;
10 identifying selected leaf cells that are connected to the selected net, wherein the
11 selected leaf cells identified by the identifying step include only the source leaf cell that
12 is connected to the selected net; and
13 selecting the identified leaf cells.

- 1 2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the selected leaf
2 cells identified by the identifying step include all of the leaf cells that are connected to the
3 selected net.

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1 3. (Canceled)

1 4. (Canceled)

1 5. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein each of the leaf
2 cells in the circuit design database is either placed or unplaced, the identifying step only
3 identifying those leaf cells that are connected to the selected net and are placed.

1 6. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein each of the leaf
2 cells in the circuit design database is either placed or unplaced, the identifying step only
3 identifying those leaf cells that are connected to the selected net and are unplaced.

1 7. (Currently Amended) ~~A method according to claim 1, further comprising~~
2 ~~the step of~~ A computerized method for selecting cells in a circuit design database, the
3 circuit design database having one or more levels of hierarchy including one or more
4 logic functions composed of one or more other logic functions and/or one or more leaf
5 cells, the leaf cells forming the lowest level of hierarchy in the circuit design database,
6 each of the leaf cells having one or more inputs and one or more outputs, the circuit
7 design database having one or more nets, each of the nets for connecting an output port of
8 a source leaf cell to an input port of one or more destination leaf cells, the computerized
9 method comprising the steps of:

10 selecting one of the nets via a user input device;

11 identifying selected leaf cells that are connected to the selected net;

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12 selecting the identified leaf cells; and

13 setting a current context.

1 8. (Original) A method according to claim 7, wherein the selected leaf
2 cells identified by the identifying step include only those leaf cells that are connected to
3 the selected net and are in the current context.

1 9. (Original) A method according to claim 7, wherein the selected leaf
2 cells identified by the identifying step include only the source leaf cell that is connected
3 to the selected net and is in the current context.

1 10. (Original) A method according to claim 7, wherein the selected leaf
2 cells identified by the identifying step include only the destination leaf cells that are
3 connected to the selected net and are in the current context.

1 11. (Original) A method according to claim 7, wherein each of the leaf
2 cells in the circuit design database is either placed or unplaced, the identifying step only
3 identifying those leaf cells that are connected to the selected net, are placed, and are in
4 the current context.

1 12. (Original) A method according to claim 11, wherein the identifying
2 step only identifies the source leaf cell that is connected to the selected net, is placed, and
3 is in the current context, if any.

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1 13. (Original) A method according to claim 11, wherein the identifying
2 step only identifies the source leaf cell that is connected to the selected net, is unplaced,
3 and is in the current context, if any.

1 14. (Original) A method according to claim 7, wherein each of the leaf
2 cells in the circuit design database is either placed or unplaced, the identifying step only
3 identifying those leaf cells that are connected to the selected net, are unplaced, and are in
4 the current context.

1 15. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein two or more of the
2 nets are selected, and the identifying step identifies selected leaf cells that are connected
3 to any of the selected nets.

1 16. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein the identifying
2 step identifies only those leaf cells that are placed.

1 17. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein the identifying
2 step identifies only those leaf cells that are unplaced.

1 18. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein the identifying
2 step identifies only those leaf cells that are in a current context.

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1 19. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein the identifying
2 step identifies only those leaf cells that are source leaf cells for the selected nets.

1 20. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein the identifying
2 step identifies only those leaf cells that are destination leaf cells for the selected nets.

1 21. (Currently Amended) ~~A method according to claim 15~~ A computerized
2 method for selecting cells in a circuit design database, the circuit design database having
3 one or more levels of hierarchy including one or more logic functions composed of one
4 or more other logic functions and/or one or more leaf cells, the leaf cells forming the
5 lowest level of hierarchy in the circuit design database, each of the leaf cells having one
6 or more inputs and one or more outputs, the circuit design database having one or more
7 nets, each of the nets for connecting an output port of a source leaf cell to an input port of
8 one or more destination leaf cells, the computerized method comprising the steps of:
9 selecting two or more of the nets via a user input device, wherein the two or more
10 nets are part of a vectored net;
11 identifying selected leaf cells that are connected to any of the selected nets;
12 selecting the identified leaf cells.

1 22. (Original) A method according to claim 21, wherein the vectored net
2 is selected at an interface of a selected logic function.

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1 23. (Currently Amended) A computerized method for selecting and aligning
2 cells in a circuit design database using a placement tool, the circuit design database
3 having one or more levels of hierarchy including one or more logic functions composed
4 of one or more other logic functions and/or one or more leaf cells, the leaf cells forming
5 the lowest level of hierarchy in the circuit design database, each of the leaf cells having
6 one or more inputs and one or more outputs, the circuit design database having one or
7 more nets, each of the nets for connecting an output port of a source leaf cell to an input
8 port of one or more destination leaf cells, the computerized method comprising the steps
9 of:

10 selecting one or more of the nets via a user input device;

11 identifying and selecting selected leaf cells that are connected to the selected one
12 or more nets, wherein the selected leaf cells identified by the identifying step include
13 only the source leaf cell(s) that are connected to the one or more selected nets;

14 identifying an alignment axis; and

15 aligning selected ones of the identified leaf cells in the direction of the alignment
16 axis.

1 24. (Original) A method according to claim 23, wherein the alignment
2 axis is substantially horizontal.

1 25. (Original) A method according to claim 23, wherein the alignment
2 axis is substantially vertical.

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1 26. (Original) A method according to claim 23, wherein each of the leaf
2 cells in the circuit design database is either placed or unplaced, the aligning step further
3 including the step of placing the identified leaf cells if not already placed.

1 27. (Original) A method according to claim 26, wherein the unplaced
2 identified leaf cells are first placed in a predetermined region before alignment.

1 28. (Original) A method according to claim 23, wherein the aligning step
2 puts the selected identified leaf cells into a predetermined order along the alignment axis.

1 29. (Original) ~~A method according to claim 28;~~ A computerized method
2 for selecting and aligning cells in a circuit design database using a placement tool, the
3 circuit design database having one or more levels of hierarchy including one or more
4 logic functions composed of one or more other logic functions and/or one or more leaf
5 cells, the leaf cells forming the lowest level of hierarchy in the circuit design database,
6 each of the leaf cells having one or more inputs and one or more outputs, the circuit
7 design database having one or more nets, each of the nets for connecting an output port of
8 a source leaf cell to an input port of one or more destination leaf cells, the computerized
9 method comprising the steps of:

10 selecting one or more of the nets via a user input device, wherein the one or more
11 nets are part of a vectored net having ordered bits;

12 identifying and selecting selected leaf cells that are connected to the selected one
13 or more nets;

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14 identifying an alignment axis; and
15 aligning selected ones of the identified leaf cells in the direction of the alignment
16 axis, wherein the aligning step puts the selected identified leaf cells into a predetermined
17 order along the alignment axis.

1 30. (Original) A method according to claim 29, wherein the aligning step
2 orders the selected identified leaf cells in accordance with the ordered bits of the vectored
3 net.

1 31. (Original) A method according to claim 29, wherein the aligning step
2 orders the selected identified leaf cells in reverse of the ordered bits of the vectored net.

1 32. (Original) A method according to claim 29, wherein each of the
2 identified leaf cells is associated with one of the ordered bits of the vectored net, and the
3 identified leaf cells for each ordered bit has one source leaf cell and at least one
4 destination leaf cell, the aligning step putting the source leaf cells into a predetermined
5 order along the alignment axis, and putting at least one destination leaf cell adjacent
6 the corresponding source leaf cell along an axis that is perpendicular to the alignment
7 axis.

1 33. (Original) A data processing system for selecting cells in a circuit
2 design database, the circuit design database having one or more levels of hierarchy
3 including one or more logic functions composed of one or more other logic functions

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4 and/or one or more leaf cells, the leaf cells forming the lowest level of hierarchy in the
5 circuit design database, each of the leaf cells having one or more inputs and one or more
6 outputs, the circuit design database having one or more nets, each of the nets for
7 connecting an output port of a source leaf cell to an input port of one or more destination
8 leaf cells, the data processing system comprising:

9 net selection means for selecting one or more of the nets of the circuit design
10 database;

11 leaf cell identifying means for identifying selected leaf cells that are connected to
12 the selected net(s), wherein the selected leaf cells identified by the identifying means
13 include only the source leaf cell(s) that is/are connected to the selected net(s); and

14 leaf cell selecting means for selecting the identified leaf cells.

1 34. (Original) A data processing system according to claim 33, further
2 comprising:

3 identifying means for identifying an alignment axis; and

4 aligning means for aligning the identified leaf cells in the direction of the
5 alignment axis.

6
7 35. (New) A computerized method for selecting cells in a circuit design
8 database, the circuit design database having one or more levels of hierarchy including one or more logic functions composed of one or more other logic functions and/or one or more leaf cells, the leaf cells forming the lowest level of hierarchy in the circuit design database, each of the leaf cells having one or more inputs and one or more outputs, the

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Application No. 09/597,529
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12 circuit design database having one or more nets, each of the nets for connecting an output
13 port of a source leaf cell to an input port of one or more destination leaf cells, the
14 computerized method comprising the steps of:

15 selecting one of the nets via a user input device;

16 identifying selected leaf cells that are connected to the selected net, wherein the
17 selected leaf cells identified by the identifying step only include one or more of the
18 destination leaf cell(s) that is/are connected to the selected net; and

19 selecting the identified leaf cells.

1 36. (New) A computerized method for selecting and aligning cells in a circuit
2 design database using a placement tool, the circuit design database having one or more
3 levels of hierarchy including one or more logic functions composed of one or more other
4 logic functions and/or one or more leaf cells, the leaf cells forming the lowest level of
5 hierarchy in the circuit design database, each of the leaf cells having one or more inputs
6 and one or more outputs, the circuit design database having one or more nets, each of the
7 nets for connecting an output port of a source leaf cell to an input port of one or more
8 destination leaf cells, the computerized method comprising the steps of:

9 selecting one or more of the nets via a user input device;

10 identifying and selecting selected leaf cells that are connected to the selected one

11 or more nets, wherein the selected leaf cells identified by the identifying step only
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12 include one or more of the destination leaf cell(s) that is/are connected to the one or more

13 selected net;

14 identifying an alignment axis; and

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Application No. 09/597,529
Amendment dated December 15, 2003
Reply to Final Office Action dated October 17, 2003

15 aligning selected ones of the identified leaf cells in the direction of the alignment
16 axis.

1 37. (New) A data processing system for selecting cells in a circuit design
2 database, the circuit design database having one or more levels of hierarchy including one
3 or more logic functions composed of one or more other logic functions and/or one or
4 more leaf cells, the leaf cells forming the lowest level of hierarchy in the circuit design
5 database, each of the leaf cells having one or more inputs and one or more outputs, the
6 circuit design database having one or more nets, each of the nets for connecting an output
7 port of a source leaf cell to an input port of one or more destination leaf cells, the data
8 processing system comprising:

9 net selection means for selecting one or more of the nets of the circuit design
10 database;

11 leaf cell identifying means for identifying selected leaf cells that are connected to
12 the selected net(s), wherein the selected leaf cells identified by the identifying means only
13 include one or more of the destination leaf cell(s) that is/are connected to the one or more
14 selected net(s); and

15 leaf cell selecting means for selecting the identified leaf cells.

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Application No. 09/597,529
Amendment dated December 15, 2003
Reply to Final Office Action dated October 17, 2003

Remarks/Arguments

Applicant has received and carefully reviewed the Final Office Action mailed October 17, 2003. Claims 1-37 remain pending, with claims 35-37 being newly presented. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 23-25, 28, 33 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Varadarajan et al. The Examiner also rejected claims 2-6, 15-17, 19, 20, 26 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Varadarajan et al. as applied to independent claims 1, 23 and 33, and further in view of Aubel et al. After carefully reviewing both Varadarajan et al. and Aubel et al., Applicants must respectfully disagree.

The undersigned participated in a telephone interview with the Examiner on November 20, 2003. During that interview, the Examiner indicated that independent claims 1, 23 and 33 would be allowable if the limitations of dependent claim 3 or dependent claim 4 were included therein. While Applicants disagree that independent claims 1, 23 and 33 are unpatentable over the cited prior art, claims 1, 23 and 33 have been amended to include dependent claim 3. Newly presented claims 35-37 have also been added, which are similar to originally presented claims 1, 23 and 33, respectively, but include dependent claim 4. During the telephone interview, the Examiner indicated that such claims would be in condition for allowance.

On November 20, 2003, the undersigned provided this Amendment-After-Final to the Examiner for review, except for this paragraph. On November 24, 2003, the Examiner contacted the undersigned and indicated that this Amendment-After-Final would place all claims in condition for allowance, including the newly presented claims.

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Application No. 09/597,529
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Reply to Final Office Action dated October 17, 2003

In paragraph 7 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 7, 8-14, 18, 21, 22, 29 and 30-32 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of originally presented claim 1. As such, claims 7-14 are now believed to be in condition for allowance. In addition, claim 21 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of originally presented claim 1 and dependent claim 15. As such, claims 21-22 are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Finally, dependent claim 29 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of originally presented claim 23 and dependent claim 28. As such, claims 29-32 are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

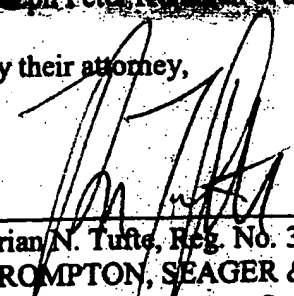
In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all pending claims 1-37 are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a notice of allowance in due course is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at 612-677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Peter Korman et al.

By their attorney,

Dated: December 15, 2003



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PATENT BRANCH

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

2004 MAR 17 PM 4:37

Applicant: Joseph Peter Kerzman et al.

Serial No.: 09/597,529

Examiner: Rossoshek, Yelena

Filed: June 20, 2000

Group Art Unit: 2825

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SELECTING AND ALIGNING CELLS
USING A PLACEMENT TOOL

Docket No.: RA 5273 (1028.1128101)

TRANSMITTAL SHEET

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.3: I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 9th day of March, 2004.

By: _____

Brian N. Tufte

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- [X] Request for Refund Under 37 CFR 1.26(b)
[X] Copies of Deposit Account Statement for January 2004, previously submitted postcard stamped by the USPTO, transmittal, amendment, copy of front and back of check issued at time amendment was filed
[X] Please charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment in the enclosed fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0413.

By: _____

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